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Patent

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

MAR 28 2002

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Technology Center 2600

In accordance with the Applicants' duty to disclose information which may be material to the examination of this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that the Examiner consider on the merits the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified) before issuing the first Office Action on the merits. We are enclosing herewith a copy of each document listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified).

The documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified) include those cited in the British Search Report of United Kingdom Patent Application No. GB 0029804.2. A copy of the Search Report (1 page) is enclosed herewith.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made (37 C.F.R. 1.97(g)), an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability, or that no other material information exists.

The Applicants believe that this IDS is being submitted before the issuance of a first Office Action on the merits and before the issuance of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance. Therefore, no official fees should be due; and this IDS should be considered on the merits. If this IDS is being submitted after the issuance of the first Office Action on the merits and before the issuance of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, then the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-0415 \$180.00 (or

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any other required amount), which is the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c); and this IDS should be fully considered on the merits, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d). If this IDS is being submitted after the issuance of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, then the Commissioner is not authorized to charge \$180.00 to Deposit Account No. 12-0415.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner. (Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13-25, at 25.)

The person making this statement is the practitioner who signs below on the basis of information supplied by an individual associated with the filing and prosecution of this application (37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c)) and on the basis of information in the practitioner's file.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to the "Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231", on March 18, 2002 by Suzanne Johnston.

SJ

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures: Form PTO-1449 (modified) (1 page)
Copy of Search Report of GB 0029804.2 (1 page)
Copy of documents listed on Form PTO-1449 (modified)



Application No: GB 0029804.2
Claims searched: 1-8

Examiner: Robert Shorthouse
Date of search: 24 August 2001

Patents Act 1977

Search Report under Section 17

Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:

UK Cl (Ed.5): H4L (LEUF, LRAB), H4K (KOD4), G4F

Int Cl (Ed.7): G06F 17/30, G08B 3/00, /02, /10, H04B 11/00, H04Q7/22, H04M 1/22,
3/493

Other: Online: WPI, EPODOC, JAPIO, INSPEC

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage	Relevant to claims
A	WO 00/50984 A1 (PIPEBEACH) See abstract	-
A	US 5945989 (FREISHTAT ET AL) see abstract	-
A	JP 1101119974 (SONY) See English language abstract	-
X	JP110110319 & US 6,163,803 (WATANABE) See US document column 1 lines 54-65	1-8

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.

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Form PTO-1449 (Modified)	ATTY DOCKET NO. B-4412 619362-3	U.S. SERIAL NO. 10/005,379
LIST OF PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS STATEMENT	APPLICANTS Andrew Thomas, et al.	
	FILING DATE December 4, 2001	GROUP 2641

(Circular stamp: MAR 21 2002, JCIA, PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE)

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	ISSUE DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE or 102(e) DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	5,945,989	8/99	Freishtat et al.	345	329	
	6,061,793	5/00	Tewfik et al.	713	176	RECEIVED
	6,163,803	12/00	Watanabe	709	217	

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS *Technology Center 2600*

	DOCUMENT NUMBER	PUBLICATION DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO
	11-110319	4/99	JP			
	11-119974	4/99	JP			Yes
	97/26733	7/97	WO			
	00/22772	4/00	WO			
	00/50984	8/00	WO			

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

Abstract of Japanese Patent No. 11-119974, published April 30, 1999, 1 page.	
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EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.